

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the follow sections and replace with the following:

Page 8, lines 5-21:

-- FIG. 2 shows an example of a hardware design of the remote terminal 108 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. In this example, the remote terminal ~~109~~ 108 includes a processor 200, a memory 202 and a display 212. The processor 200 may represent, e.g., a microprocessor, a central processing unit, a computer, a circuit card, an application-specific integrated circuit (ASICs), as well as portions or combinations of these and other types of processing device which already part of the remote terminal 108 (e.g., CPU for a wireless handset or PDA). The memory 202 may represent, e.g., disk-based optical or magnetic storage units, electronic memories, as well as portions or combinations of these and other memory devices. The display ~~121~~ 212 may represent a video, audio, or tactile means of communicating information. As shown, the remote terminal 108 also includes a communication unit 204 (e.g. Ethernet, Bluetooth, cellular or packet data interface), a tag reading unit 206, and one or more context sensors 208. The tag reading unit 206 may be internal to the remote terminal 100 in which the unit 206A --

Page 12, line 8 -- Page 13, line 3:

-- include pricing and shipping cost, of similar products available through the Internet. Thereafter, a user can accept a particular competitive bid received, or submit a counter offer to a particular on-line retailer.

In this manner a user is able to remotely whether to complete an on-site or an on-line sales transaction or make a counter offer to either the on-site or an on-line retailer. Remote users/customers obtain competitive bids, while shopping in a conventional mall or retailer location.

An advantage of the present invention is that a wide variety of system architectures can be used to implement the system of FIG. 2. Server-side and client-side architectures can be used. As briefly mention above, the service nodes

~~114~~ 110 may be a web server coupled to the remote terminal ~~100~~ 108 over the Internet or other communication network.

As shown in Fig. 1, the service nodes 110 may be coupled to a profile database 116. It is noted that the profile database 116 may be integrated with the service nodes 110. The service node ~~114~~ 110 --